

health care data system that can be jointly agreed to between, again, those elements, Department of Health, insurance industry and hospitals in the State of Nebraska. And that's an element in here as well that allows us to jointly share information on a public partnership to get data to all those individuals, insurance companies, the hospitals and the Health Department. So that's included in here as well. And then finally, elements of a bill that we have been working on for a while dealing with the planning process to change the health care system, elements of this are found in LB 827, but this is a much revised version and a very weak attempt to try and allow for the Department of Health, on a local, regional basis, to have boards established to talk through and discuss health care needs in their region, the future of health care services in the region, how cooperatively individuals can move forward to address those concerns. There is no funding or mandate in this particular proposal, but the hope is that at some point in the future funding will be made available and this process can be put into place. This planning process would sunset in 1998. These three elements are what are in this amendment. They are cosponsored by Senator Byars, who cosponsored LB 817. And again, these have been worked through with all the parties, and I don't think there's any opposition to any part of the amendment and would ask for its adoption.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Could we stand at ease just one second. Senator Wesely, could I visit with you a second. Okay, it's my understanding there is nothing filed to the Wesely amendment. We have two speakers, Senator Byars and Senator Wehrbein. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to commend Senator Wesely and the committee for the amount of work that they've done on this bill, and I certainly am in support of the bill and the amendments. As a cosponsor of LB 817, it has worked its way through the process. Truly the spirit of compromise has come to plan this issue. I feel comfortable with the language and the sunset language that's in this amendment at this time. I might just though maybe, to clarify for members of the body, Senator Wesely, would you respond to a couple of questions, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, would you respond to a couple questions, please?